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CANADA SEEKS TO WITHHOLD KEY INFORMATION IN NIJJAR TRIAL

Canada is seeking to withhold sensitive evidence in the murder trial of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, citing international security

TRIAL NOT EXPECTED BEFORE AUGUST 2026

The killing occurred on June 18, 2023, when Nijjar was shot outside a Gurdwara in British Columbia. Trial is not expected before Aug 2026. The case strained India-Canada relations briefly when PM Trudeau alleged India's involvement. India denied the claims as "motivated". PM Mark Carney is now seeking to expand bilateral trade relations with India

REBUILDING INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney met on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta
Trade talks, paused since 2023, were revived. Leaders agreed to launch negotiations during a November 2025 G20 sidelines meeting in Johannesburg, aiming to double bilateral trade to \$50 bn by 2030

Section 38

OF CANADA EVIDENCE ACT PROTECTS SHARING OF SENSITIVE INFO

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Today's Matches

3pm: England vs, Sri Lanka (Pallekele); 7pm: India vs South Africa (Ahmedabad)

KSDL working on first-ever sandalwood toothpaste

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE first essential for everyone in the morning is toothpaste. Large companies offer multiple varieties of toothpaste for strong teeth, whitening, sensitive teeth and gums and so on. Chemical compositions are combined with natural ingredients ranging from salt, neem to charcoal.

Taking this a step ahead, Karnataka will soon launch a first-of-its-kind sandalwood toothpaste, and researchers from Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd (KSDL) are striving hard to reach that goal. The researchers said they are trying multiple combinations to create the right toothpaste.

"Sandalwood helps heal and cool gums. Today, many people complain of mouth ulcers and bleeding gums. Sandalwood has proven to be a healing agent when used appropriately. It can help cure mouth ulcers, fight bacteria and act as a mouth freshener. Sandalwood has high anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. It is also a calming agent. Some quantity of sandalwood oil can also be consumed after treatment," explained a researcher from KSDL.

"Sandalwood is not just popular for its aroma and high economic value now. It has had a high status since ancient times. Our organisation has launched a series of sandalwood products and research on more is ongoing," said KSDL Managing Director Prashanth PKM. P7

Day after, Trump jacks up global tariff to 15 pc

Indian exporters uncertain about the actual quantum of levy; govt studying the situation

PUSHPITA DEY @New Delhi

UNCERTAINTY prevails over the actual tariff Indian goods would attract after the US Supreme Court struck down the reciprocal levy imposed by the Trump administration on Friday. Shortly after the verdict, Trump announced a uniform 10% global tariff on all nations. On Saturday, he scaled up that figure to 15%, which is 3% short of the 18% levy he had announced for India early this month.

During the next few months, "the Trump administration will determine and issue new and legally permissible tariffs", he said on social media.

With Trump claiming on Friday that "nothing has changed" for India, confusion persisted on the actual quantum of levy.

The judgment came at a time when India is on the verge of signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the US. The Modi government has not yet clarified the status of the interim negotiations. On Saturday, it said it is analysing the developments before taking a final view. "We are studying all the developments for their implications," the Ministry of Commerce said.

Meanwhile, sections of the US media reported that all tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on trading partners have been suspended and that the new 15% tariff is now applicable. However, a fact sheet issued by the White



Effective immediately, (I am) raising the 10% Worldwide Tariff on Countries ... to the fully allowed, and legally tested, 15% level
Donald J Trump

House said Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025 — which regulates imports through reciprocal tariffs to address large and persistent US goods trade deficits — has been amended (not suspended or withdrawn).

Indian exporters are awaiting clarity on whether 15% or 18% would apply. For now, they are in a wait-and-watch mode.

Ashwin Chandran, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said: "Greater clarity from authorities, including on what happens to the interim India-US trade deal, would be most helpful."

The Trump administration has also indicated it may rely on Section 301 or Section 232 provisions to impose higher tariffs.

Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 empowers the US Trade Representative to investigate and respond to unjustifiable, unreasonable or discriminatory trade practices. Proposed probes are expected to cover issues such as industrial overcapacity, forced labour, digital services taxes, pharmaceutical pricing and discrimination against US technology companies.

Tariffs under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, imposed on national security grounds, will also remain in force. These sectoral duties — covering steel, aluminium and other strategic products — range between 10% and 50%. Some Indian exports, including steel, aluminium and auto parts, continue to face 25-50% levy.

88 countries adopt New Delhi declaration on equitable AI

RAKESH KUMAR @New Delhi

AS many as 88 countries, including the US, UK, China and the EU, along with several international organisations, endorsed the New Delhi Declaration at the end of the India AI Impact Summit, which committed itself to ensuring an equitable AI. The declaration set out a shared approach to AI governance and development.

"The advent of AI marks an inflection point in the trajectory of technological evolution. The choices that we make today will shape the AI-enabled world that future generations will inherit," the declaration said.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said the declaration is built around seven key pillars — democratising AI resources, promoting economic growth and social good, building secure and trusted AI, expanding access for social empowerment, advancing AI for science, developing human capital, and creating resilient and efficient AI systems.

The document calls for affordable access to foundational AI resources and support for local innovation ecosystems. It also proposes platforms to scale successful AI use cases globally.



India-Brazil pact on critical minerals

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

INDIA and Brazil on Saturday agreed to deepen cooperation in critical minerals and rare earths while setting an ambitious bilateral trade target of over \$20 billion annually within the next five years, following wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Lula is in India on a five-day visit, during which he is also attending the India AI Impact Summit.

Addressing the media after delegation-level discussions, Modi described Brazil as India's largest trading partner in Latin America and said the two were committed to expanding economic engagement. "We are committed to taking bilateral trade beyond \$20 billion in the next five years. Our trade is not



President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi greet Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as he arrives in New Delhi on Saturday | SHEKHAR YADAV

just a figure, it is a reflection of trust," he said.

Bilateral trade stood at \$12 billion in 2024-25, with Indian exports at \$6.77 billion and imports from Brazil at \$5.43 billion.

A key outcome of the talks was an agreement on cooperation in critical minerals and rare earths.

The two countries also signed a joint declaration on digital partnership and MoUs

BJP MLA caught taking ₹5L bribe

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

AN MLA from opposition BJP and his two aides were caught by the Lokayukta police in Gadag district on Saturday, while accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh from a contractor.

The MLA, Dr Chandru Lamani — representing Shirahatti,

and his two personal assistants, Manjunath Valmiki and Guru Lamani, had allegedly demanded the money to get a project awarded to the contractor. They had called the contractor, Vijay Sannahanumappa Pujar of Chinchali village, to Balaji Hospital

in Lakshmeshwar town that is owned by the MLA.

The accused had allegedly demanded Rs 11 lakh and the first tranche of Rs 5 lakh was being handed over when they fell into the trap laid by the Lokayukta police.

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WITH THIS ISSUE
THE MANY LIVES OF LOVE
THEN AND NOW
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

Dams losing water fast, state may face crisis

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA received good rainfall last year raising hopes of trouble-free months ahead, but the reality is different: Ten of the state's 13 major dams now have lower storage than the previous year. That is because of evaporation of water from dams because of rising temperatures, while severe overexploitation has affected groundwater quality.

Experts warn that drinking water could be a concern in some parts of the state this summer.

As per data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), water storage at all 13 dams was 535 thousand million cubic Feet (tmcf) in 2025, but now, it is 493 tmcf, a difference of 42 tmcf. While the Tungbhadra dam had close to 40 tmcf of water last year, it

has reduced to 24 tmcf now. Similarly, the Lingannakki dam has 87 tmcf now, as against 78 tmcf last year.

The water level at the Supa dam has come down from 82 tmcf to 77 tmcf. There has been a slight increase in Krishnaraja Reservoir. While it was 37.88 tmcf last year, it is 38.64 tmcf now.

As against the total capacity of 895.07 tmcf in all the 13 dams, the storage is 493.91 tmcf, which is 45% of the capacity. CONTINUED ON: P7

Water could not be stored at the TB dam as the crest gates were broken and water was lost last year. Though the catchment areas received a good rain, the reservoir could only store 70% of it
Srinivas Reddy, Former KSNDMC director

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